

2000 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics

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Dear Friends in Agriculture,

The year 2000 was another challenging one for producers in Louisiana. Low prices for commodities and the continued drought in much of Louisiana made it harder for producers to “make ends meet.” In spite of the harsh weather conditions in 2000, rice, sorghum, and wheat had historically record high yields and more acreage was harvested for sugarcane than ever in recorded history. Rice acreage, however, took a dramatic drop, partially due to saltwater intrusion in well water from the continued drought. In 2000, prices for most major commodities in Louisiana continued their slide downward and were at the lowest price level in quite some time.

Livestock prices for cattle, calves, and hogs increased this past year. The marketing year average price for hogs was \$35.10 per cwt. in 2000 compared to \$25.10 per cwt. in 1999. The average price for cattle, at \$51.60 per cwt., was \$6.10 above last year’s price. The average price for calves, at \$98.50 per cwt., was \$16.30 above last year’s price. On the down side, the season average prices for chickens, eggs, and milk were all down from 1999.

Management decisions are extremely important as profit margins narrow. Current reliable statistics are the critical component that provides a basis for sound management decisions. “2000 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics” emphasizes the importance of agriculture to the overall economy of Louisiana. Farm level cash receipts totaled \$1.82 billion, not to mention the value added to production within the state.

We are pleased to present the 2000 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin. This publication is a cooperative effort between the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Louisiana State University. The sources of information continued in this issue are wide and varied. We would like to acknowledge the voluntary support of the state’s agribusinesses, farmers, and ranchers, all of whom supply most of the information compiled in this bulletin. Without their voluntary reporting, this report would not be possible. We would also like to recognize the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, farm organizations, and growers’ associations for their support.

The Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service employees are committed and dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of our users. Please contact us anytime with questions, comments, and requests for information. We have all of our releases available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/la. All national level releases can be accessed from our headquarters Internet site at www.usda.gov/nass/, and are available immediately after the release of the report. As a data user, you may also receive free automatic e-mail subscriptions to many of our reports, simply go to the following website via Internet and follow the quick and simple instructions at www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm.

Louisiana counts on Agriculture.

Sincerely -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave Frank
State Statistician